

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes (UNAPPROVED)

For January 29, 2024 3:30-5pm

1	Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 3:40pm		Chair
2	Confirmation of Quorum (5 voting members required) Committee members present: D. Monsour (Chair), S. Jennings (Vice-Chair), K. Highsted, M. Kang, C. Brennan, J. Wang, and T. Pokorny, D. Young Regrets: , I. Sommerville BC Transit Staff: S. Anderson, K. Armstrong, C. Mossey, S. Stevens, A. Bishop	Confirmed	Chair
3	Approval of the Agenda Moved by S. Jennings and C. Brennan seconded by to add to the following items to the Agenda: Item G - Taxi Saver Program Item H – Motions to be presented by Committee Member C. Brennan Motion Carried Moved by I. Sommerville and Seconded by J. Wang to accept Agenda with the above noted additions. Motion Carried.	Approved Approved	Chair
4	Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2023 Moved by K. Highsted and Seconded by T. Pokorny to approve Minutes. Motion Carried.	Approved	Chair
5	Chair’s Remarks No remarks	For Info	Chair
6	Action Items from Previous Meeting		
	- Committee Members encouraged to ride the system, and bring back suggestions that can be included in the buses to December 4 th ATAC meeting that will support and promote accessibility. Suggestions will then be forwarded to VRTC for their consideration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Discussed as part of Item D 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACTION: S. Anderson will do some research into how other transit systems address serving visually impaired riders (CARRY FORWARD – Future Meeting) - ACTION: W. Davey to contact K. Highsted directly and address issue of being able to log into new booking system (CARRY FORWARD – Future Meeting) - ACTION: S. Stevens advised they would provide Committee Members with the handy DART application package (CARRY FORWARD – Next Meeting) - ACTION: C. Mossey to schedule a presentation of handyDART assessment process for an upcoming ATAC meeting (CARRY FORWARD – Next Meeting) 		
7	Standing Item		
	handyDART Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No report o W. Davey on vacation and no other handyDART staff members available to attend 		
8	New Business		
	<p>A. Floating Bus Stops – C. Brennan advised Committee of recent article in Times-Colonist about case that went before the BC Human Rights Tribunal about Floating Bus Stops in the City of Victoria. The design and location of the bus stops have caused concern for the safety of visually impaired persons. A representative from Saanich Engineering was quoted in the article and C. Brennan asked Committee if the Saanich representative or a representative from CNIB be asked to attend an ATC meeting and make a presentation to Committee.</p> <p>T. Pokorny advised that she represents CNIB. T. Pokorny advised that she has met with the Saanich representative and provided feedback about how dangerous they are for visually impaired persons.</p>	For info and Discussion	C. Brennan - ATAC

	<p>C. Mossey (BC Transit) advised that the Province has initiated a working group to review and investigate Floating Bus Stops as infrastructure. A working group has been created with TransLink and BC Transit has been engaged by this Working Group as a stakeholder. Some municipalities have been tasked with “piloting” newly designed floating bus stops. One is currently on Gorge Rd. S. Jennings asked who is on the working group with “lived experience” as a person with disabilities and shared her own recent experiences</p> <p>ACTION: C. Mossey will investigate who is on the working group with “lived experience” and will find out if a member of working group would be available to make a presentation to ATAC.</p> <p>B. Bus Passes for ATAC Members – C. Brennan asked if VRTC would consider providing bus passes to ATAC Members</p> <p>Committee members supported this idea</p> <p>MOTION: S. Jennings moved that VRTC consider compensating ATAC Members with monthly bus passes while in good standing as Committee Members – Seconded by: C. Brennan</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p> <p>ACTION: C. Mossey will look into this request and advise Committee at an upcoming meeting</p> <p>T. Pokorny advised the Committee that they regularly take a Route 70 home, and the accessible seating is monopolized with bags and luggage of people going to Swartz Bay. This is not safe for people with disabilities who cannot sit down on their journey. Suggested that VRTS develop a route for commuters and a route for passengers going to the ferry.</p> <p>K. Armstrong (BC Transit) suggested Committee Members call 250-382-6161 to report these situations. Making the call will initiate a record of the issue.</p> <p>J. Wang noted that the new NEXT RIDE system will be able to make customized announcements that may help these situations (eg: Please remove luggage from seats).</p>		<p>C. Brennan – ATAC</p>
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	<p>S. Anderson (BC Transit) noted that Committee’s concerns are being heard by the right people, but that change takes some time.</p> <p>C. Impact of Proposed Fare Increase on People with Disabilities – C. Brennan shared his concern for the proposed fare increase for VRTS for those individuals in particular who are financially disadvantaged. Would like to see system accessible for all and noted there are many places in the world where public transportation is free</p> <p>S. Jennings noted that it is unrealistic to have a decrease in fare structure. Fare system is affordable for the value of the service.</p> <p>C. Mossey (BC Transit) advised that funding for the VRTS comes from passenger fares, fuel tax and property taxes. A fare review report will be presented to the VRTC on March 19, 2024. Report notes that compared to similarly sized transit systems, VRTS fares are lower. The BC Bus Program is regulated by the Province and is not in the scope of VRTC. Province decides if handyDART can accept program pass holders.</p> <p>K. Highsted noted that compared to car ownership, \$5/day to ride transit seems fair for people with a wage, but suggests a sliding scale based on income</p> <p>16:45 – It was noted that there were still several Agenda items to discuss and that buses for Committee Members would start arriving. Chair prioritized remaining items with Committee Members.</p> <p>D. Observations from ATAC Members and Recommendations to VRTC (Follow up item from September 25, 2023 meeting) CARRY FORWARD</p> <p>E. 2024 Meeting Schedule – The following months were confirmed for scheduled ATAC Meetings in 2024 – 4th Monday of each month: March, June, September and November (3:30-5pm). Other meetings can and will be scheduled as needed. ATAC Charter supports 4 meetings per year (minimum).</p> <p>F. Agenda Item Ideas - CARRY FORWARD</p> <p>G. Taxi Saver Program – S. Jennings advised Committee that there has not been any resolution to Yellow Cab no longer participation in the Taxi Saver Program. Yellow Cab has several wheelchair accessible vehicles and their withdrawal from the program has significantly compromised</p>		<p>C. Brennan – ATAC</p> <p>D. Monsour – ATAC Chair and K. Armstrong – BCT Staff</p>
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	<p>service to people with disabilities as there are now only 6 accessible vans in Victoria that accept Taxi Saver coupons.</p> <p>S. Jennings asked if a meeting with the taxi companies can be scheduled to work out the remittance issues between BCT, the taxi companies and the drivers.</p> <p>M. Kang reminded Committee that he is a representative of the BC Taxi Association and the taxi companies have suggested some kind of debit/credit card that individuals using the Taxi Savers could use for payment so the delay in reconciling and processing remittance to the taxi companies could be avoided.</p> <p>S. Stevens (BC Transit) advised that BC Transit has been trying to meet with Yellow Cab for months. The paperwork from the taxi companies that is submitted to BC Transit involves 100s and 100s of single chits, so takes time for drivers to submit to company and company to submit to BC Transit. Once an invoice is submitted to BC Transit, payment to taxi company is timely. Unfortunately, at this time, a more technical (eg: debit/credit card) is not an option. BC Transit is still committed to working with the taxi companies and is hoping to resolve the situation.</p> <p>H. Motions from Committee Member C. Brennan (see attached) – Due to time constraints C. Brennan agreed to discuss proposed motions at the next ATAC meeting. Chair Monsour was appreciative of C. Brennan’s understanding. CARRY FORWARD</p> <p>Miscellaneous Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several Committee Members shared how much they appreciated the discussion and the representation of staff from BC Transit. - S. Stevens (BC Transit) introduced Adam Bishop to Committee. Although A. Bishop has been with BC Transit for some time, he is new to the role of Manager of Accessible Transit - The possibility of scheduling a February meeting was discussed. 		
<p>9</p>	<p>Review of NEW Action Items from current meeting</p> <p>ACTION: C. Mossey will investigate who is on the working group with “lived experience” and will find out if a member of working group would be available to make a presentation to ATAC.</p>		

	ACTION: C. Mossey will investigate the request to provide monthly bus passes for Committee members		
10	Adjournment Moved by C. Brennan and Seconded by M. Kang to adjourn meeting. Motion Carried. Next Meeting: TBC (Hybrid – in person and TEAMS) 3:30-5pm		